

a malignant brain tumor. Though we have never met, I know that there is a direct connection between my daughter's health today and the life of greatness lived by William C. Black. I personally thank him for his work and know his legacy will forever live in the gratitude of untold numbers of other cancer survivors, their families and friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask that this chamber pause to remember William C. Black, and to thank his wonderful wife Barbara, his accomplished sons, William Jr., Michael Paul, and Christopher for their love and dedication to one another, Jersey Shore Medical Center, and our blessed country.

COMMEMORATING CARTER BLOODCARE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Carter BloodCare on pioneering the processes of the blood care/capture industry operations.

Carter BloodCare (CBC) worked closely with the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center and successfully implemented a methodology that has significantly achieved process improvements, increased productivity and doubled capacity while reducing floor space. These new changes were the result of CBC collaborating with Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (an initiative of the U.S. Department of Commerce NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership program) by participating in their training course: Fundamentals of Lean Enterprise. The Lean program was an "outside the box" way of thinking in the blood collection industry but it has proven to be an overwhelming success for CBC. This system allowed CBC to identify and correct problem areas, reduce needless work and create a more productive work flow. Their adoption of the Lean Philosophy approach will serve them well for years to come.

I commend Carter BloodCare for transforming the processes of the blood care/capture industry and providing lifesaving units of blood to the people of Texas efficiently and expediently. It is an honor to represent Carter BloodCare in the 24th District of Texas.

HAROLD MILLER RECEIVES COMMANDER'S CHOICE AWARD

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Harold Miller, who has been selected to receive the Defense Logistics Agency's (DLA) Business Alliance Award for the Commander's Choice Category. This award program recognizes businesses and individuals who have made outstanding efforts in partnering with DLA to provide supplies and services to America's war-fighters.

The Commander's Choice Award is given to a person whose dedication and commitment to the DLA mission affects the quality of life for

U.S. women and men in uniform. Mr. Miller is the Aerospace Global Pricing Compliance Leader for Honeywell Aerospace, located in my hometown of Tempe, Arizona. He has consistently led Honeywell from the inside to integrate DLA's mission requirements into corporate culture and daily work processes. Through his tireless work, Mr. Miller has allowed DLA to provide superior customer support on Honeywell parts. He has an unsurpassed willingness to take risks and a strong commitment to making things work. Both of these characteristics have enabled DLA to navigate around potential crisis situations.

Mr. Miller should be proud of his accomplishments. Again, I say congratulations on the award and thank you for a job well done.

THE GLOBAL PEDIATRIC HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT OF 2008

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to introduce the Global Pediatric HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Act. I am pleased to be joined by Congresswoman KAY GRANGER. This legislation will strengthen our commitment to preventing the new transmission of HIV infections in children. The legislation builds on the successful PEPFAR programs aimed at reducing mother to child transmission of HIV and AIDS.

The legislation provides a comprehensive, five year strategy to prevent new HIV infections in children and ensure that the treatment of children infected with HIV keeps pace with their infection rate. We can achieve the birth of an HIV-free generation.

Reducing mother to child transmission and providing treatment to HIV positive children was one of the goals of the original PEPFAR legislation. The PMTCT or the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission services were a critically important prevention effort included in the PEPFAR legislation. As we begin the process to reauthorize these programs we must use this opportunity to strengthen the original goals and mission of PEPFAR.

Every day more than 1,000 children around the world are infected with HIV; approximately 90 percent of those infections occur in Africa. With no medical intervention, HIV positive mothers have a 25 percent to 30 percent chance of passing the virus on to their babies during pregnancy and childbirth. Yet just one dose of an ARV drug given to the mother at the onset of labor and once to the baby during the first three hours of life reduces transmission of HIV by almost 50 percent. We know what works and we now how to reduce HIV babies. We just need to provide the commitment and resources to achieving this goal.

Children account for almost 16 percent of all new HIV infections but represent only 9 percent of those receiving treatment under PEPFAR. Without proper care and treatment, half of all newly infected children will die before their 2nd birthday and 75 percent will not see their 5th birthday.

The bill establishes a target requiring that by 2013 15 percent of those receiving treatment under PEPFAR be children. This target simply keeps pace with the rate of infection.

In addition, it establishes a 5 year target for Preventing Mother to Child Transmission efforts. By 2013, 80 percent of pregnant women receive HIV counseling and testing, with all of HIV positive mothers receiving ARV medication.

The legislation also requires integration of prevention, care and treatment with PMTCT services in order to improve outcomes for HIV affected women and families and to improve the continuity of care.

Prevention is our greatest tool in fighting this pandemic. We have no vaccine or cure. But we can work to achieve an HIV free generation.

I want to thank the work of the Elizabeth Glaser Foundation who have worked to further the cause of preventing mother to child transmission. The Foundation is also a leader in the global effort to provide care and treatment to millions of HIV positive children. The Foundation's recommendations for strengthening PEPFAR are the basis for this legislation. I also want to thank Senators DODD and SMITH who have introduced the Senate version of this legislation. Finally, I want to thank Congresswoman GRANGER for her willingness to work with me on this legislation and for her continued commitment to addressing the global pediatric HIV/AIDS crisis.

I know that my colleagues on the Foreign Relations Committee are working to develop a strong PEPFAR reauthorization and I look forward to working with them to ensure that the final bill includes strong PMTCT provisions.

HONORING THE 180TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF MCKENDREE UNIVERSITY

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 180th Anniversary of the founding of McKendree University, the oldest college in Illinois.

McKendree University was founded in 1828, by Methodist pioneers in Lebanon, Illinois. First named, "Lebanon Seminary," the name was changed in 1830 in honor of William McKendree, the first American-born bishop of the Methodist Church. McKendree University is not only the oldest college in Illinois, but it is also the oldest college in the United States with continuous ties to the United Methodist Church.

While McKendree University is justifiably proud of its rich history and tradition, it continues to grow and modernize in order to attract the quality of students and faculty needed to maintain its excellent academic standing. This continuous evolution was made evident with the recent name change from McKendree College to McKendree University in 2007. This name change reflects the broad range of academic opportunities available at McKendree, including the introduction, beginning in 2004, of several graduate programs. These graduate programs—including education, professional counseling, business administration and nursing—have become so popular that their enrollment now accounts for one quarter of the entire student body.

McKendree has continued to evolve physically as well as academically. The university now includes two campuses in Kentucky as well as the main campus in Lebanon, Illinois. It also hosts off-campus offerings at nearby Scott Air Force Base, in addition to other locations in Illinois and Kentucky. In 2006, McKendree opened the new Hettnerhausen Center for the Arts which has rapidly developed into one of the premier performing arts centers in the region.

As McKendree has continued to expand and evolve, it has earned more wide-spread recognition of the excellent academic reputation it has long enjoyed locally. Recent awards and rankings include being ranked among the top 14 percent of "Comprehensive Colleges—Bachelor's" by U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges 2007 and U.S. News & World Report's "Great Schools, Great Prices" ranking.

McKendree University has come a long way from its humble beginnings in 1828, with 72 students in two rented sheds. It now boasts a dynamic, multi-state campus with a full range of extra-curricular offerings to complement its excellent academic programs. Throughout its impressive evolution, however, McKendree University has remained true to its roots. Students still come first at McKendree. The focus of the entire McKendree community on enabling each student to fulfill his or her potential continues to mark McKendree University as "Illinois' First and Finest."

Madam Speaker, I am proud to say that my wife, Dr. Georgia Costello, received her undergraduate degree from McKendree and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the University.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Board of Trustees, administration, faculty and students of McKendree University on the occasion of their 180th Anniversary.

RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING WEEK

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of International Networking Week from February 4–8, 2008, and the prominent role my constituents play in preserving our competitiveness in the global economy.

As the co-chair of the U.S.-China Working group and a member of the State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Subcommittee, I know first-hand the importance that international relationships play in both diplomacy and in business.

Of special importance are organizations that create bridges between people for the mutual benefit of their members. As technology continues to bring us closer together, the relationships we forge will be more crucial than ever for companies seeking to grow their businesses.

Whether it is one of the many multinational companies in the 10th Congressional District or a locally-owned small business, networking will continue to play a vital role in the growth of the U.S. economy. From manufacturing to

distribution to the point-of-sale, we are stronger for having people throughout the world work together to expand their opportunities.

PRESIDENT'S FY2009 BUDGET REQUEST

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern about the budget request that President Bush transmitted to Congress earlier this week. By cutting programs important to working families and ignoring the significant economic downturn our Nation is facing, the administration has yet again demonstrated that its priorities are not those of the American people.

Our Nation is facing the real threat of a recession, and our government should be doing everything in its power to get our economy moving and to protect the American people from financial hardship. While the President has said he wants to work with Congress on an economic stimulus package, his budget request contains a number of devastating cuts to important programs that will make it even harder for our citizens to make ends meet.

Despite widespread recognition that fixing the U.S. economy will require addressing our weak housing market, the President's proposal only adds to the uncertainty that families are facing. This budget would slash funding for public housing and rental assistance programs, eliminating critical aid for lower income families, the elderly and minorities, many of whom may be facing foreclosure as a result of the subprime mortgage crisis. In Rhode Island, 400 families are at risk of losing their homes under the President's cuts to Section 8 vouchers. At the same time, he proposes to slash the Community Development Block Grant, CDBG, program, which provides vital funding for economic and community development in our State's cities and counties.

A real economic plan should also include an investment in education and job training programs that will promote new employment and ensure that our workforce can adapt to the jobs of the future. Unfortunately, those programs are not priorities in the President's budget, and even proposed funding for No Child Left Behind, a program that the President touts as one of his biggest accomplishments, does not keep pace with the rate of inflation. If this budget is enacted, Rhode Island would see \$1.5 million less for after-school programs and a cut of almost \$6 million for career and technical education. Even with layoffs happening all across our State, President Bush wants to cut adult employment and training services, which would decrease Rhode Island's One-Stop Career System by half a million dollars.

I am deeply disappointed that the President's budget does not even begin to fully fund special education programs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Furthermore, instead of fully funding our children's public schools, President Bush has turned back to the idea of school vouchers, renaming them Pell Grants for Kids. Vouchers will not solve our country's education woes, and naming them after Rhode Island's es-

teemed Senator Pell, who championed public education, is grossly misleading and dishonors the legacy of a great Senator.

The President's budget also fails to make higher education affordable for students with economic challenges. Rhode Island, where college tuition has risen 45 percent in 4 years, would see a \$7 million decrease in educational grants for college students. This budget also raises the funding level of Pell grants only by slashing funding for math and science courses that prepare students for technical programs after high school. To maintain our economic advantage in the coming years, our Nation must invest more in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education. Cutting these programs is short-sighted and endangers our international competitiveness.

At a time when so many families are having difficulty paying their bills, this budget also shreds the safety net programs that help the poorest Americans. I am extremely disappointed that the President seeks to cut \$570 million from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Despite record heating oil prices, the President wants to slash this program by 22 percent, a cut that would harm our elderly. Ironically, the budget will cause the heating costs of the poor to rise by eliminating the Weatherization Assistance Program. A Federal program that helps people actually reduce their energy consumption. These programs are vital to places like Rhode Island where families are struggling with astronomical heating costs.

The budget also endangers health care programs for our Nation's poor and elderly by placing critical domestic health care programs on the chopping block. The President has proposed nearly \$200 billion in cuts to Medicare and Medicaid over the next 5 years. Unfortunately, he aims to achieve these cuts by reducing reimbursements to health care providers and charging Medicare beneficiaries higher premiums for prescription drug coverage and doctors' services. This could not come at a worse time for the 316,000 Rhode Island citizens that receive care under these vital programs and are seeing the costs of goods rise and their purchasing power fall. Furthermore, the health care slated to receive additional reimbursement cuts under this proposal continue to struggle to properly treat the Medicare population. While I agree that we need to address the long-term solvency of Medicare, any reforms should be implemented in a manner that is responsive to the needs of beneficiaries and providers alike.

Also contained within the President's budget is a suggested increase of \$20 billion over 5 years for the State Children's Health Insurance Program, SCHIP. This amount falls drastically short of the bipartisan SCHIP bill passed by Congress in 2007 that would have expanded coverage for millions of children. Unfortunately, the President vetoed that legislation and has instead presented us with a proposal that might well be insufficient to cover current SCHIP participants, let alone cover children who are currently eligible but not yet enrolled in the program. As a longtime supporter of SCHIP, I cannot stress how important this program is to our children, expectant mothers, and parents alike. It is my hope that we will be able to work in a bipartisan manner to ensure that this program receives a proper reauthorization.